GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:73
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Agricultural Production
Giluwa Shri Laxman;Ranjan Smt. Ranjeet

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether agricultural production is on the decline in the country during the last three years, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the Government has taken any steps to enhance agricultural production and productivity and if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of funds sanctioned to the States for the purpose during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government for the welfare of farmers in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
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(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 73 DUE FOR REPLY ON 1ST MARCH, 2016.

(a): Details of production of major agricultural crops along with increase/decrease in production during the last three years i.e. 2012-13 to 2014-15 are given in Annexure-I.

It is observed that while production of most of the agricultural crops during 2013-14 was higher than their production during the previous year, there has been a decline in the production during 2014-15. The decline in production during 2014-15 has been mainly on account of deficit/deficient rainfall during monsoon season, affecting kharif production and unseasonal rains/hailstorms during February-March, 2015 which severely impacted production of rabi crops.

(b): In order to boost agricultural production in the country, the Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/ Programmes such as Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), National Food Security Mission (NFSM), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.
Contd..2/-

To achieve higher productivity of agricultural crops, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is also conducting basic and strategic research relating to crop improvement, production and protection technologies suitable to different situations including development of location-specific varieties/hybrids and technologies.

(c): The State-wise details of funds allocated under the major Crop Development Schemes/Programmes of Government of India are given in Annexure-II.

(d): In order to incentivize the farmers to increase production of agricultural crops by ensuring remunerative prices for their produce, the Government of India announces every season the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) of major agricultural commodities.

Further, the crop insurance schemes namely, National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) with its three component schemes viz. Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) & Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS) and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) are being implemented by the concerned State/UT Governments. The existing schemes have been comprehensively reviewed and Government of India has recently approved Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna (PMFBY) which would replace the existing schemes of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and

Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) from Kharif 2016. The scheme has been improved from earlier Schemes on several counts. WBCIS has also been restructured by making the premium of the farmers, selection of insurance company and administrative & operational structure at par with PMFBY.
Contdâ€¦3/-

A United Package Insurance Scheme (UPIS) has also been approved for implementation on pilot basis in 45 districts of the country from Kharif 2016 to cover the other assets/activities like machinery, life, accident, house, student-safety of farmers along with their notified crops (under PMFBY and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme- WBCIS).

Short term crop loan of Rs.3.00 lakh is provided to farmers at an interest rate of 7% per annum. Government has implemented interest subvention of 3% on short term crop loan. Farmers, who promptly repay their crop loans as per the repayment schedule fixed by the banks, get the benefit of interest subvention of 3%. In order to discourage distress sale by farmers and to encourage them to store their produce in warehouses against warehouse receipts, the benefit of interest subvention scheme has been extended to small and marginal farmers having Kisan Credit Card for a further period of upto six months post harvest.